

**National Recreation and Preservation/International Park Affairs**

**JUSTIFICATION OF PROGRAM AND PERFORMANCE**

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Activity: International Park Affairs

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Program Components	2001 Estimate	Uncontr/ Related Changes	Program Changes (+/-)	2001 Budget Request	Change From 2001 (+/-)
A. Office of International Affairs	939	+15	-4	950	+11
B. Southwest Border Program	763	+6	-1	768	+5
<b>Total Requirements \$(000)</b>	<b>1,702</b>	<b>+21</b>	<b>-5</b>	<b>1,718</b>	<b>+16</b>

**AUTHORIZATION**

16 U.S.C. 1	National Park Service Organic Act
16 U.S.C. 470a-1	National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (Title IV)
42 U.S.C. 4332	National Environmental Policy Act
16 U.S.C. 1537	Endangered Species Act, as amended
	North American Free Trade Agreement, December 17, 1992

**OVERVIEW**

The National Park Service, through the **International Park Affairs** activity, coordinates a number of mandated international assistance and support functions that meaningfully complement the Service's domestic role. These include: support to Regional Offices and park units so that they can effectively collaborate with neighboring countries to protect and manage resources shared across international boundaries; development and support of training workshops and technical assistance projects for other nations to aid in the protection and management of their national parks and protected areas; facilitation of the transfer of park and protected area management information and technology worldwide; and formation of a partnership with Mexico to provide for maximum protection of significant shared natural and cultural resources on the United States/Mexico border.

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***A. Office of International Affairs  
FY 2001 Estimated Program and Anticipated Accomplishments***

**Enacted: \$939,000**

In response to both Executive and Legislative directives, the National Park Service works to protect and enhance our own and the world's parks and protected areas through strengthening the management, operation, and preservation of outstanding natural and cultural resources and critical habitats. It shares America's recognized leadership in natural and cultural heritage resource management worldwide and assists in the attainment of United States foreign policy objectives.

The Office of International Affairs (OIA) exchanges technical and scientific information, shares knowledge and lessons learned, and provides technical assistance to other nations and United States territories on park and heritage resource management issues. The OIA coordinates the placement of international volunteers-in-parks and the

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visitation of international park professionals and high-ranking officials to NPS sites. It also assists in implementation of international obligations that arise from legislative mandates and executive initiatives.

### **Long-Term Programs**

The Office of International Affairs develops and implements cooperative international agreements to conduct long-term programs for protected areas conservation and resource management with key international partners. In FY 2000, long-term cooperative programs were being implemented with NPS counterparts in Argentina, Venezuela, China, South Africa, Mexico, Canada, Russia, and the Caribbean Basin. Upon the conclusion of these cooperative programs, each of these countries will have shared significant experience and knowledge on protected areas' issues that will increase their viability as regional role models for and partners with other nations.

<b>International Park Affairs Workload Factors</b>	<b>FY 2000 Actual</b>	<b>FY 2001 Estimate</b>	<b>FY 2002 Estimate</b>
Response to outside stakeholder requests	100%	100%	100%
Number of new or renewed contacts	18	10	10
Number of long-term programs implemented	7	8	Maintain existing programs
Response to technical assistance requests	100%	100%	100%
Response to park requests	100%	100%	100%
Number of volunteer personnel working to strengthen NPS resource management	134	125	125

- In FY 2000, a two-year action plan under the existing Memorandum of Understanding with Argentina was signed. A four-person NPS delegation traveled to Argentina to discuss opportunities for collaboration in interpretive planning, visitor management and ranger training. In FY 2001, it is expected that a workshop on wayside exhibits and a visit by Argentine interpretive planners to Harpers Ferry Center will be undertaken.
- In FY 2000, two National Park Service delegations traveled to China. In FY 2001, a delegation headed by the National Park Agency of China to the United States is expected and a jointly held conference on national park management and planning will be held in the United States. It is also expected that up to five park professionals from China may come to the United States to work/study within a few designated parks during this fiscal year.
- Workshops and introductory sessions on *Leave No Trace* and Concessions Planning were conducted in South Africa. Two South African national park employees visited United States national parks to learn about environmental education and human resource management. A National Park Service employee traveled to South Africa to participate in an international conference on invasive species.

The National Park Service also shares management responsibility for preservation and conservation of natural and cultural resources with international park authorities along United States borders with Canada and Mexico as well as with neighboring Russia and the Caribbean Basin. The NPS accomplishes these responsibilities through decentralized activities initiated directly between NPS park units and field offices and their counterparts across the border.

In FY 2000, the Memorandum of Understanding between the National Park Service and the Bahamas National Trust was renewed for a five-year period. Under this decentralized agreement, mutually beneficial activities between Everglades National Park and the Bahamas National Trust have taken place. Examples include cooperative natural

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history surveys and park feasibility assessments, natural systems impacts of Brazilian pepper and related management options, and work on fire management policies.

### **Technical Assistance**

Every year managers of parks and protected areas in other countries request technical assistance from the National Park Service. Responses to these requests for assistance are designed to match the international partner's unique needs. The National Park Service responds to these ad hoc requests if funds are available.

- On January 26, 2000, an agreement with Chile's National Forest Corporation was signed by the U.S. Ambassador to Chile establishing a five-year program of technical exchange and cooperation in national parks and protected areas management. A workshop on managing visitor use and working with gateway communities was held in Los Famencos Nature Reserve, San Pedro, Chile with nature reserve staff.
- The agreement between the NPS and Spain's National Park Service was signed by the U.S. Ambassador to Spain in November 2000 (FY 2001). It calls upon the parties to collaborate in such mutually beneficial areas as visitor use management, natural resources management, and park interpretation skills.
- In FY 2000, technical revisions to the World Heritage program regulations (36 CFR 73) were drafted to eliminate the outdated annual calendar for preparing and submitting U.S. nominations and to correct the obsolete criteria for selecting sites. These revisions will be published during 2001, and consideration will be given to another substantive revision that would provide more explicit procedures for public participation.

### **International Resource Management Support to Parks**

Through internal coordination activities by its Washington and field office staffs, the OIA facilitates opportunities training, both domestically and abroad, to park and conservation professionals. Park Service employees benefit from their direct interaction and exchanges with their international professional colleagues.

The OIA also facilitates the exchange of information domestically by coordinating the international volunteers-in-parks program that enables international park professionals and university-level students to volunteer their expertise in National Park Service areas. This program provides major assistance to the NPS at a very modest cost. In FY 2000, a total of 134 volunteers assisted NPS field staff through a variety of work/study opportunities. Some of their activities include but were not limited to: environmental education at Great Smoky Mountains National Park, migratory bird studies at Gateway National Recreation Area, trail maintenance at Golden Gate National Recreation Area, and historic interpretation at Colonial National Historical Park.

- Fourteen national parks in other nations (including Slovak Republic, Russia, Mexico, Bahamas, Georgia, Japan and Poland) have established "sister park" relationships with NPS units. These partnerships increase information sharing and direct professional contacts between parks and protected areas primarily through the use of improved communication technologies. The sister park matches are determined by the commonality of issues confronting each park and protected area in lieu of strict bio-geographical pairing. The number of matches is expected to expand slowly as appropriate pairings are made between NPS sites and parks abroad.
- Protected areas and heritage resource professionals, with various study objectives, travel to the United States from all over the globe to learn from the National Park Service. The Office of International Affairs plans and develops these specialized programs. In FY 2000, OIA staff provided assistance and information to 101 individuals from over 20 countries.

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- The National Park Service hosted and co-chaired the inaugural meeting of the World Protected Areas Leadership Forum in March 2000. Park and protected area system Directors/CEOs from 19 of the world's developed and developing countries met to exchange ideas and perspectives about emerging park issues and challenges in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. The event also provided them with an opportunity to put forth key issues to be addressed at the 2003 World Parks Congress to be held in South Africa. This historic event was the first time the leadership of parks and protected areas has ever gathered together to discuss matters of common and mutual concern. Spain will host the second meeting in May 2001.

- In September 2000 at the National Park Service Leadership Conference – Discovery 2000 – 12 international participants attended the weeklong event. The Office of International Affairs facilitated our international colleagues participation. The conference and the participation of our global guests were considered by both the Service leadership and our guests to be mutually beneficial and enlightening.

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### **FY 2002 BUDGET REQUEST**

	2002 Budget Request	Program Changes (+/-)
▪ Office of International Affairs \$(000)	950	-4
The FY 2002 request for the Office of International Affairs is \$0.950 million, which represents an increase of \$11,000 over the FY 2001 enacted level. The FY 2002 proposed programmatic decrease of \$4,000 to the Office of International Affairs activities includes streamlining.		
Justification for this program change is included at the end of this subactivity's presentation.		

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### ***B. Southwest Border Program FY 2001 Estimated Program and Anticipated Accomplishments***

**Enacted: \$763,000**

The National Park Service manages seven park areas along the 20,000-mile border shared between the United States and Mexico. They include Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, Coronado National Memorial, Chamizal National Memorial, Big Bend National Park, Rio Grande Wild and Scenic River, Amistad National Recreation Area, and Palo Alto Battlefield National Historic Site. The Service administers roughly 18 percent of the land on the United States side of the border. Mexico manages nine protected areas in the U.S./Mexico Border Region. These areas include Parque Nacional Constitution de 1857, Alto Golfo y Delta del Rio Colorado, El Pinacate, Gran Desierto de Altar, Reserva Federal Sierra de los Ajos, Canyon de Santa Elena, Maderas del Carmen, Parque Nacional Iod Novillos and Reserve de Cuatrociénegas. Memoranda of Understanding have been established between the NPS and two Mexican federal agencies for collaboration on the protection, preservation, and conservation of shared natural and cultural resources along the border.

The NPS United States-Mexico Affairs Office (MEAF) was established to fulfill the mission of strengthening cooperation between entities in the United States and Mexico for the design and implementation of strategies for the conservation of natural and cultural heritage shared by both countries. The MEAF office located at New Mexico

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State University, Las Cruces, facilitates the completion of Service responsibilities related to border park protection and responds to environmental concerns. This is being accomplished through the following international activities:

- Park management and planning, wildlife research field training courses, environmental education, organization and support for international forums on conservation, and providing technical assistance on natural and cultural resource management plans.
- Continued leadership and support for international forums on the management of protected areas and wildlife
- Continued leadership role on the United States Department of the Interior Field Coordinating Committee to achieve a unified agency approach to bi-national management issues with Mexico.
- Continuing to support the formation of an ecological binational partnership within the Sonoran Desert Region.
- Assisting New Mexico State University to form a bi-national education program for the conservation and management of natural resources along the United States/Mexico Border.
- Collaborating with Mexico's National Institute of Anthropology and History for the establishment of a binational Camino Real de Tierra Adentro Historic Trail in both countries.
- Working with United States/Mexico federal, state, municipal, and private entities on the Mimbres-Paquime connection trail located in southern New Mexico and northern Chihuahua, and La Rute de Sonora located in southwestern Arizona and Baja California, Sonora, Mexico.
- Collaborating with Mexican colleagues on research projects, inventories, and the development of appropriate protection strategies for archeological and paleontological resources in the Border region.
- Continued partnership role and support for international forums that focus on the protection, management, and conservation of historic and cultural areas.
- Collaborating with Mexican colleagues on working with communities located adjacent to protected areas in both countries.

#### **Performance Goals**

Long Term Goal III b2	By September 30, 2005, 94% of communities served are satisfied with NPS partnership assistance program in providing recreational and conservation benefits on lands and waters.
Annual Goal III b2	By September 30, 2002, with methodology in place, 93.8% of states, municipalities, communities, and non-profit organizations served are satisfied with MEAF in providing recreational and conservation benefits on lands and waters.

<b>Southwestern Border Program Performance Information</b>	<b>FY 2000 Actual</b>	<b>FY 2001 Estimate</b>	<b>FY 2002 Estimate</b>
Percent of states, communities, and nonprofit organizations served are satisfied with NPS partnership assistance in providing recreation and conservation	93.8%	93.8%	93.8%

The FY 2001 program includes the design and implementation of educational courses, international forums, and research programs for United States and Mexican personnel assigned to protected areas. This will be facilitated in full partnership with colleagues from the National Institutes of Ecology and Anthropology and History. The following table illustrates the FY 2001 and FY 2002 programs of planned international border activities.

<b>International Border Activities Workload Factors</b>	<b>FY 2000 Actual</b>	<b>FY 2001 Estimate</b>	<b>FY 2002 Estimate</b>
Participation in international technical assistance projects (training courses, research, specialized educational forums, Monarch Butterfly Workshop)	3	5	7
Response to DOI interagency partnership requests (e.g., Arizona/Sonoran Desert Ecosystem Monitoring Program)	5	8	12

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Participation in international forums on natural resources: United States/Mexico Border Conference, Institute of Ecology Workshop, Chihuahuan Desert symposium	4	4	6
Participation in international forums on cultural resources: Camino Real, Seminario Internacional de Conservacion Y Restauracion de Arquitectura de Tierra (SICRAT), and International Workshop on Lime (TICAL).	4	4	7
Participation in Mimbres-Paquime connection projects (workshops, planning, education, US/Mexico Customs)	2	2	6
Camino Real de Tierra Adentro projects (mapping, database projects, inventories, baseline studies)	4	3	3
International Wildlife Research Program	4	5	6

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**FY 2002 BUDGET REQUEST**

	2002 Budget Request	Program Changes (+/-)
▪ Southwest Border Programs \$(000)	768	-1
The FY 2002 request for the Southwest Border Program is \$0.768 million, which represents an increase of \$5,000 over the FY 2001 enacted level. The FY 2002 proposed programmatic decrease of \$1,000 to the Southwest Border Program activities includes streamlining.		
Justification for this program change is included at the end of this subactivity's presentation.		

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**JUSTIFICATION OF FY 2002 BUDGET REQUEST FOR INTERNATIONAL PARK AFFAIRS**

	2002 Budget Request	Program Changes (+/-)
International Park Affairs \$(000)	1,718	-5

The FY 2002 request for International Park Affairs is \$1.718 million and 11 FTE, which represents a net increase of \$16,000 above the FY 2001 enacted level. The net programmatic decrease of \$5,000 for the International Park Affairs activity is justified by the proposed change that follows:

- **Streamlining (-\$5,000):** The NPS proposes to effect savings of \$5,000 in this program by reducing travel and other administrative overhead cost; procurement efficiencies; and making use of technological advances (such as, but not limited to, teleconferencing). Redundant administrative positions will not be filled when vacancies arise. The NPS expects to create more efficient systems and processes without affecting program delivery